

**REMARKS**

The rejections asserted in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) are respectfully traversed. These rejections were asserted in light of U.S. Pat. No. 5,530,237 to Sato, *et al.* (hereinafter "Sato").

Claims 5, 6, and 21 recite, *inter alia*, the following features: "wherein the autofocusing detection device further comprises an auxiliary beam splitter and an auxiliary light sensor, the auxiliary beam splitter positioned between the detection system lens and the iris, the auxiliary beam splitter configured to reflect a fraction of the reflected autofocusing light beam to the auxiliary light sensor". Sato does not disclose these features even if, *arguendo*, the characterizations of the disclosure in Sato as set forth in the Office Action were correct. For at least this reason, Sato may not anticipate the subject matter claimed in the pending claims.

Claim 52 recites, *inter alia*, the following features: a "probe arm" and "wherein the probe arm is substantially elongated so that the optical output device may be positioned distant from the object to be examined". Sato does not disclose these features even if, *arguendo*, the characterizations of the disclosure in Sato as set forth in the Office Action were correct. For at least this reason, Sato may not anticipate the subject matter claimed in the pending claims.

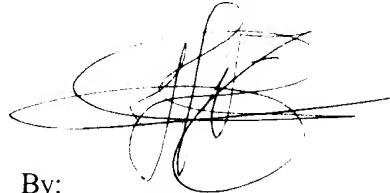
Applicants note that feature 1 in Sato is therein described as an "observation optical system". Sato, col. 4, ll. 21-22. The dashed lines that are referred to by reference numeral 1 in Fig. 1 in Sato do not appear to correspond to a structural element, but they appear to merely constitute a visual aid. Furthermore, Sato specifies that the "detailed description of the observation optical system 1 ... is omitted [t]herein." Sato, col. 4, ll. 23-25. Applicants therefore submit that Sato does not disclose at least the features concerning a "probe arm" as recited in claim 52.

Applicants respectfully request that the rejections concerning claims 5, 6, 21, and 52 be removed. Pending claim 51 is allowed in the Office Action. In light of the foregoing

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remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance, and request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,



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